

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 1964

CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST TWO HELD IN
'63 SHOOTING OF RIGHTS WORKER

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI - Charges against two white men accused in the machine-gunning of a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) field secretary nearly two years ago have been dropped by the District Attorney here, a former FBI agent.

Greenwood District Attorney George A. Everett, who resigned from the FBI to run for his present post, said November 23 charges against William H. Greenlee and Wesley Kersey had been "passed to the files".

"A thorough review of the evidence available to the state discloses the evidence is not sufficient to sustain a conviction", Everett said.

Everett said the case would be eliminated from future consideration during the term of Circuit Court here.

The two white men had been free on bond since their arraignment in early 1963. Greenlee and Kersey - and a white youth - were charged with machine-gunning Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Field Secretary Jimmy Travis on February 28, 1963 while Travis, SNCC Mississippi Project Director Robert Moses and Randolph Blackwell, then working for the Voter Education Project, were enroute from Greenwood to Greenville. The shooting took place near Itta Bena, seven miles from here.

Travis was hospitalized for several weeks after the shooting. Doctors said his life had been spared because a window in the car he was driving slowed the trajectory of the bullet that lodged in the base of his skull.

Everett said dropping the case "seemed in the best interest of all concerned."